

Ecology Announces Update of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan Rule

Chapter 173-182 Washington Administration Code (WAC) requires certain oil handling facilities, pipelines and vessels to have a state approved oil spill contingency plan that describes their ability to respond to major oil spills. The objective of contingency plans is to ensure capable pre-trained and pre-staged response personnel and response resources are ready to respond to oil spills. Preparedness and planning support aggressive responses by reducing spill impacts to public health, the environment, and cultural resources. Rapid responses to spills with trained personnel and appropriate equipment can reduce costs for spill response, and increase recovery of spilled product.

Oil spill preparedness involves a continuous cycle of activities, capturing lessons learned and then incorporating them back into plans, policies and procedures. The cycle is necessary to promote coordination among a combination of federal, state, local, tribal, private sector, and non-governmental entities all using the Incident Command System to manage a coordinated response to oil spills.

Summary of the rule changes

Ecology amended the Oil Spill Contingency Planning rule (Chapter 173-182 WAC) to implement Chapter 122, 2011 Laws (E2SHB 1186). This rule making updates or amends the following:

- Updates state oil spill preparedness planning standards to incorporate best achievable protection and best available technology.
- Improves the state's current vessels of opportunity system.
- Requires joint large-scale equipment deployment drills from tank vessels.
- Improves the state-required notification process to include potential spill threats as well as actual spills.
- Amends contingency plan requirements for nonprofit "umbrella" organizations.

WHY IT MATTERS

All oil spills cause environmental harm, regardless of size. Oil is toxic to the environment and the damage starts as soon as the oil hits water. A single quart of oil has the potential to foul more than 100,000 gallons of water. This rule insures that oil handlers have contingency plans for response to oil spills.

When spillers quickly remove oil from the water they directly reduce impacts to environmental, cultural and economic resources.

Important dates:

Adopted Date:

December 14, 2012

Effective Date:

January 14, 2013

Contact information:

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Special accommodations:

If you need this document in format for the visually impaired, call the Spills Program at 360-407-7455.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Rule Adoption Notice

Spills Program

December 2012

- Updates definitions.
- Makes other changes related to oil spill contingency and Ecology's contingency plan review and approval process.

Response to Comments

Ecology's response to comments received during the public comment period is now available. Download a copy at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/rules/1106.html>

Whom does this rule affect?

Chapter 173-182 WAC requires certain oil handling facilities, pipelines and vessels to have a state approved oil spill contingency plan that describes their ability to respond to major oil spills. The rule also sets requirements for review and approval of Primary Response Contractor applications.

More information

Additional information about Spills Prevention Preparedness and Response program activities can be found at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/spills.html>

The Ecology spills program listserve will be used to update interested parties on spills program activities and the rule implementation. To register as an interested party with the spills program and receive updates on rule implementation as well as notifications of public review and comment periods on oil spill contingency plans please join our listserve at

<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa>

To get updates on Ecology's rule-making activities, sign up for the WACTrack email list at www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html

Appeal procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For more information about appealing this rule adoption, please contact Bari Schreiner, Agency Rules Coordinator, at (360) 407-6998 or bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov.

